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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9713
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1023

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 001642

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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [CI](#) [VE](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VENEZUELA'S UNSC CANDIDACY

On July 31, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 116,807) ran an editorial entitled "The Security Council Vote." Quote:

"Our government has done well in not committing to candidates presented thus far, in resisting the pressure to support one or another, and in favoring greater consensus.... The reasons that make it difficult and even impossible for the Chavez regime to represent the region on some of the most important international policy issues will no doubt persist until October. But it does not seem reasonable, consistent with our identity and our domestic consensus, or even politically wise, to give our vote to the Chavez regime's bid."

KELLY